

Response under 37 CFR 1.111
Serial No. 09/774,099
Attorney Docket No. 010093

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 8 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 3 have been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated December 29, 2004.

Examiner Interview:

The courtesy extended by Examiner Nelson to the Applicants' representative, Tom Brown, during the March 31, 2005 personal interview is gratefully appreciated. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 7 and 8 are allowable, as indicated in item 4 of the Action.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:
claims 1 - 6 stand rejected under 35 USC '103(a) as being unpatentable over Koike (of record).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Claims 1 - 4:

Independents claim 1 and 3 have each been amended to include the features that the horizontal video end position detection means detects a horizontal video end position of the video data outputted from the analog-to-digital converter on the basis of a variable second threshold value, and that the threshold value control means controls, for each vertical period, the variable second threshold value depending on the level of the video data at the horizontal video end position detected within the vertical period.

That is, as explained during the March 31, 2005 interview, a fundamental difference between the present claimed invention and Koike is that the present invention uses a variable second threshold value in setting the horizontal image end signal (see e.g., page 41, lines 3 – 11), whereas in contrast Koike clearly indicates that the horizontal image start/end signals are determined based on the RGB data being larger than (for the start signal) or smaller than (for the end signal) a single predetermined threshold value (paragraphs 0038 and 0039).

In other words, Koike only discloses a single predetermined threshold value for both the horizontal image start/end signals and not a variable second threshold value.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Koike fails to disclose the features of claims 1 and 3, as amended, concerning *horizontal video end position detection means for detecting a*

horizontal video end position of the video data outputted from the analog-to-digital converter on the basis of a variable second threshold value; and threshold value control means for controlling, for each vertical period, the variable second threshold value depending on the level of the video data at the horizontal video end position detected within the vertical period.

Independent Claims 5 and 6:

Independent claim 5 recites judgment means for judging for each field whether or not the width of a region where input video exists is smaller than the number of horizontal effective pixels on the basis of the result of the calculation by the calculation means; and means for stopping, while the width of the region where the input video exists is being judged to be smaller than the number of horizontal effective pixels, a frequency adjustment operation based on the number of sampling clocks found in the field. Independent claim 6 recites similar features.

With regard to claims 5 and 6, during the March 31, 2005 interview, the Examiner's attention was directed to Fig. 8c of the present specification and its accompanying discussion in the bridging paragraph between pages 53 and 54 of the present specification. That is, it was explained to the Examiner, for example, that when the width of the region where the input video exists is judged to be smaller than the number of horizontal effective pixels, such as that of Fig. 8c, the present claimed invention of claims 5 and 6 includes a means for stopping the frequency adjustment operation.

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It was further explained that Koike fails to even address a situation involving a narrow video, since the behaviour of the delay data generation unit stopping the delay control and issuing an instruction to terminate detection of the total of dots to the up-down counter (in Koike) has nothing to do with stopping frequency adjustment for narrow videos.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Koike fails to disclose or fairly suggest the claimed features concerning *judgment means for judging for each field whether or not the width of a region where input video exists is smaller than the number of horizontal effective pixels on the basis of the result of the calculation by the calculation means; and means for stopping, while the width of the region where the input video exists is being judged to be smaller than the number of horizontal effective pixels, a frequency adjustment operation based on the number of sampling clocks found in the field.*

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

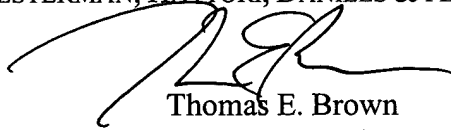
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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